

Activity S1

Mini water cycle



S.T.E.A.M is an abbreviation for Science Technology Engineering Art and Maths and is an integrated approach to learning that encourages learners to make connections between concepts and thinking which can be applied to solving real world problems.

Whether you are new to STEAM or not, these easy to manage projects all about water will encourage critical thinking skills and scientific processes all while having lots of fun along the way.

Background Information

Water, in its three different forms - solid, liquid and gas - travels around the earth in what is known as the water cycle. Everywhere in Cairns is part of the water cycle. The steamy hot, sticky days when it's very humid is when there's lots of water vapour in the air. The dark storm clouds during a big build up. The wonderful rain pouring down when the wet season kicks off; keeping Copperlode dam full and our rivers and creeks – such as the Barron, Mulgrave and Russell Rivers and Freshwater and Behana Creeks – all flowing. Those local creeks and rivers helping transport water out into the Pacific Ocean and the incredible Great Barrier Reef that we are lucky to have right on our doorstep. Don't forget the World Heritage Wet Tropics Rainforest that also sucks up the water and back out into the air through transpiration. All around us water is in a constant cycle.

For this activity you will need:

- Clear plastic bowl
- Cling wrap
- Mug or smaller ceramic bowl
- String
- Water
- Permanent marker

Explore more...

Which parts of the water cycle do you think the bowl and cup represent. Where did you see other parts of the water cycle happening in your experiment?

Try adding salt to the water in the big bowl to represent the ocean.

Do you think this mini water cycle could be an effective way to clean water?

Have a go at making a closed terrarium - a fully enclosed ecosystem.

Did you know? The water that we drink today is the same water dinosaurs drank - there is no new water and it's in a constant cycle.

REMEMBER Water is in a constant cycle so think about ways you can save this precious resource at home.

- Use a trigger nozzle on your hose -
- Take short showers - Use the half flush -